

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Amendments to Claims and Specification

The specification has been amended to delete the portion of claim 1 included on page 16, as required in item 1 on page 2 of the Official Action.

Claims 1-4 have been canceled.

2. Rejections Based on Prior Art

The rejections under 35 USC §§102(a) and 103(a) have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-4.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

By: BENJAMIN E. URCIA  
Registration No. 33,805

Date: January 18, 2005

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC  
625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: (703) 683-0500